

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

WORKSHOPS

We are working hard to devise an exciting programme of workshops for you for the coming year. You have been telling me what you want to see and I am keen that we should run more instrumental workshops than we have in the past. However for this to succeed, we need your support.

The first thing that you can do to help out is to *book early*. The Society has very limited funds and we cannot afford to run many events at a loss. Organising a workshop takes time. Workshops require a lot of planning and tutors need to prepare music, which also takes time. Booking early really helps to make everyone's life easier. The easier it gets, the more workshops we are likely to see organised.

The second thing that you can do to help is help out by offering to organise a workshop – it does not need to be restricted to the members of the Committee, who already have a lot to do. Help comes in many guises: you could just agree to be the co-ordinator and receive the bookings etc., or you may wish to suggest a topic, a tutor, a venue, and take ownership of the whole thing. Or perhaps, you may feel comfortable with somewhere in between. Whatever it is the Committee would be pleased to hear from you.

Workshop Plans

There are a lot of plans currently being developed. All things being equal, there should be a recorder workshop with Grace Barton at the end of the year. (see under Forthcoming Workshops) We are trying to organise a *weekend* workshop for viol players with Ibi Aziz, which I am very excited about. Ibi has agreed to run this and we are trying to work out where to run this event. For singers, I am trying to set-up a Gregorian Chant day with John Rowlands-Pritchard (see www.opus-anglicanum.com) again I am waiting for a suitable venue before finalising.

The AGM workshop will be with Sally Drage and the development of the English Anthem. This will be for instruments and voices. Venue to be confirmed – we are looking at hosting this at the historic Liverpool Parish Church, which has been the site of a church since at least 1254.

The setting is spectacular right next to the Mersey and Liverpool's historic maritime heritage.

Workshop & Event Organisers

As noted above, it would be immensely helpful if more people would help and get involved with event organising. The organiser would become the central point of contact for the tutor, the venue, the Committee etc. If you would like to help, or would like more information, please get in touch with me by phone or e-mail.

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

This is important. We *must* cut the costs of running NWEMF so that there is more money to support making music. Also, we would like to be able to communicate with you more frequently. To achieve both objectives, we must move to using e-mail as the preferred method of communication. Paper will still be used where essential.

We only have e-mail addresses for about half of the membership at present and some of these are evidently out-of-date as they bounce. Please note that we will not pass anyone's e-mail address onto anyone else without your express consent, even if asked. The addresses are purely to enable the NWEMF Committee to communicate with you more effectively.

Please send an e-mail to me at renaissance@uwclub.net don't forget to include your name in the e-mail so that I know who it is from! Don't forget to let us know if you change your e-mail address.

Please help to reduce our costs and help make running NWEMF easier.

CONSTITUTION

I am in the midst of re-writing the constitution, which has altered little from the Society's foundation. Why do we need to change? There are a number of reasons. It is out-of-date and does not comply with current charity regulations, e.g. Charities Act of 2006. We need to reduce the insurance costs that we pay and again the structure of the constitution is an impediment to this.

The draft will be reviewed at the Committee meeting in September and we will vote on it at an EGM, which will be convened to run at the AGM in March 2010. One of the reasons for requesting your e-mail addresses is so that we can e-mail the document to you: we do not wish to be paying to print and post 150 copies of a 10-page document. Equally, I do not wish to spend hours explaining things at an EGM when we could be making music. This is all avoided if we can e-mail the papers to most of you well in advance of the meeting.

WEB SITE

I am pleased to say that David Allen is recovering well from his major surgery. The equally good news is that David is working hard on refreshing the Society's web site. As I write this, the first changes are already in place with a new logo and clean layout. David will be working on this over the coming months. Visit: www.nwemf.org.uk .

You will be able to download forms and information for all workshops from the web site and in due course there will be a private members' area where you will be able to access newsletters, AGM minutes and accounts etc.

Ron Kelley